

jects," the Sato government has been eager to seize the opportunity to propose that a "conference of ministers of Asian countries" be held in Tokyo this year with the participation of Burma, Thailand and the Philippines and other countries and regions, in order to induce the Southeast Asian countries to accept Japan's "aid" and "loans," and thus pave the way for Japanese neo-colonialism.

"Make strength the mainstay and the economy the herald" is the slogan of Japanese ruling circles. This shows that the economic expansion of Japan's monopoly capital is closely tied to the revival of militarism. Intensified economic expansion is now promoting the speeded-up revival of Japanese militarism.

(To be continued.)

## Aidit—Outstanding Helmsman of Indonesian C.P.

### Why Indonesian Right-Wing Forces Spread Rumours About Him

**I**NDONESIAN Right-wing papers have been spreading various rumours recently concerning the whereabouts of Comrade D.N. Aidit, Chairman of the Communist Party of Indonesia, and Western and Japanese propaganda machines have given extensive currency to them.

The Indonesian weekly *Suara Minggu*, on November 28 concocted the story that Aidit and Njoto attempted to escape from Indonesia in a submarine belonging to a foreign country. It attacked China by insinuation, alleging that the submarine belonged to "a country which is ostensibly friendly towards Indonesia, but which in actual fact supports the Communist Party of Indonesia." In relaying this rumour AFP reported, on the same day, that "observers believed the description fitted only People's China."

In spreading this barefaced lie, the Indonesian Right-wing forces obviously aim to worsen relations between China and Indonesia.

Another rumour was spread on November 29 by the anti-communist *Nusa Putera*, organ of the Indonesian Islamic Union Party, to the effect that Chairman Aidit was killed by Indonesian troops on November 27 during their raid on the Merapi Mountain in Central Java. UPI, Reuter and AFP teletyped this rumour around the world on November 29 or 30.

An AP dispatch from Tokyo on December 1 quoted "a highly placed American with access to official information" as saying that Aidit was slain by Indonesian government forces in a raid. This highly placed American, who refused to be identified, added in all seriousness that his source was "official" and not the paper *Nusa Putera*.

The Japanese papers *Asahi Shimbun*, *Japan Times* and *Sankei Shimbun*, on November 29 and 30, also spread a rumour that Aidit was dead. They "reported" that he had been shot and killed on October 22 while trying to escape from a prison in Solo, Central Java. As soon as this rumour appeared, AP, UPI, Reuter, AFP

and broadcasting stations in Japan competed with each other in sending it out.

These rumours were spread at almost the same time; but they contradicted each other and were full of inconsistencies. One said that Chairman Aidit was still alive while another reported him dead. Indonesian Right-wing papers were the source of all of them. In spreading the story of Aidit's death, the Indonesian Right-wing papers gave the date as November 27 and the place as a mountain area in Central Java; while Japanese newspapers gave the date as October 22, a difference of more than a month, and the place as a city in Central Java.

These rumours were so preposterous and fantastic that the Indonesian army authorities could only make ambiguous remarks about them and dared not verify them. As reported by Reuter, Sunarjo, the spokesman of the Indonesian Supreme Operational Command, indicated on November 29 that "he had not received any reports about Mr. Aidit being dead nor did he know if he had been captured." This in fact acknowledges that these reports were completely fabricated.

The Indonesian Right-wing papers and the Japanese papers evidently had ulterior motives in fabricating these rumours and so had the Western news agencies in spreading them. By their anti-communist, anti-Chinese and anti-popular acts, the Indonesian Right-wing forces have aroused increasing dissatisfaction, so they have to resort to such despicable means as rumour-mongering to throw dust in the eyes of the public and create confusion. They concentrated their efforts on concocting rumours about Chairman Aidit because he is the outstanding helmsman of the Communist Party of Indonesia, because he works unswervingly to safeguard the interests of the Indonesian people, fights resolutely against U.S.-led imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism as well as against modern revisionism and modern dogmatism, and, for these reasons, enjoys high prestige both at home and abroad.